

The President's Daily Brief

15 September 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Negotiations to free the hostages held by the fed-
ayeen are at a standstill. (Page 1)

North Vietnam

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Laos. (Page 3)

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In Chile, Allende is using a mixed bag of threats
and flattery to help nail down his election victory.
(Page 5)

The Cambodian Government's overland convoy to Kom-
pong Thom continues to be stalled. (Page 6)

There are signs that the Soviets are establishing
support facilities in Cuba for nuclear-powered sub-
marines. (Page 6)

Moscow may soon intensify its efforts to get East
Germany in the UN. (Page 6)

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

Western negotiators have not yet been able to clarify exactly what the fedayeen want in return for the release of their hostages. There are signs of energetic debate among fedayeen factions over who, among the many Israeli-held fedayeen, they should demand to be released. One Red Cross representative got a brief look at a tentative list of prisoners which he said contained about 150 names.

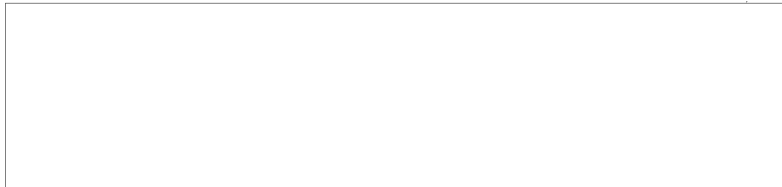
The British and Germans are disturbed by Israel's inflexibility and are getting closer to a decision to make a separate arrangement with the fedayeen. The German ambassador has told representatives of the other five powers meeting in Bern that if concrete steps in a multinational framework are not decided upon within a short time, Germany could be obliged to negotiate separately to free its own nationals. A British threat to move independently if a new Red Cross negotiator were not named may be forestalled by the appointment of Boisard, head of the permanent Red Cross delegation in Cairo, who has been successful in the past in negotiating prisoner exchanges with the Arabs. The British are insisting that the appointment be made public immediately, however, and the Red Cross wishes to delay until Boisard is actually en route to Amman.

Andre Rochat, former head of the Red Cross negotiating team in Amman, believes that although the hostage problem is extremely complex, it can be solved satisfactorily if handled by someone acceptable to the Palestinian leaders. In his opinion, the PFLP will not hesitate to kill in order to secure its objectives; he thinks that eventually it may well make examples of one or two selected hostages.

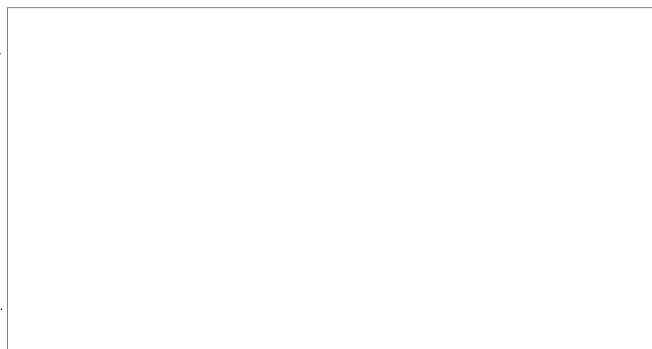
In Jordan, meanwhile, a commando spokesman reported new attacks yesterday by army troops on guerrilla units in the Irbid area in the north. In Amman, both fedayeen and army positions have been reinforced. According to the Jordanian director of public safety, the fedayeen had been cooperating to carry out the cease-fire agreement until the outbreak of fighting in the north, after which the situation once again became tense.

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NORTH VIETNAM



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LAOS

Intercepted North Vietnamese messages indicate that the enemy is establishing a new supply center and transshipment base near the village of Ban Phone, which lies near the Bolovens Plateau. The new base is well to the west of the long-standing infiltration corridor. The North Vietnamese messages state that Ban Phone will be supplied from Ban Bac via the Se Kong River and a new road now under construction along the river.

The messages also state that supplies will be funneled to Ban Phone from a logistic unit believed to be located at the junction of Route 23 and the Se Bang Hieng River. This would bring supplies to the Ban Phone base via Routes 23 and 16, a road system which has heretofore never been an integral part of the main Communist north-south infiltration complex.

There is no reference in the messages to what happens after Ban Phone, but presumably the Communists will want to use the Se Kong River and Route 16 for onward movement toward the Cambodian border. Such a route would almost certainly be used to supply Communist forces in the western portion of the Laotian panhandle as well as to augment the total flow of supplies southward from North Vietnam. The westward route could assume much of the logistic burden for Communist forces in Cambodia.

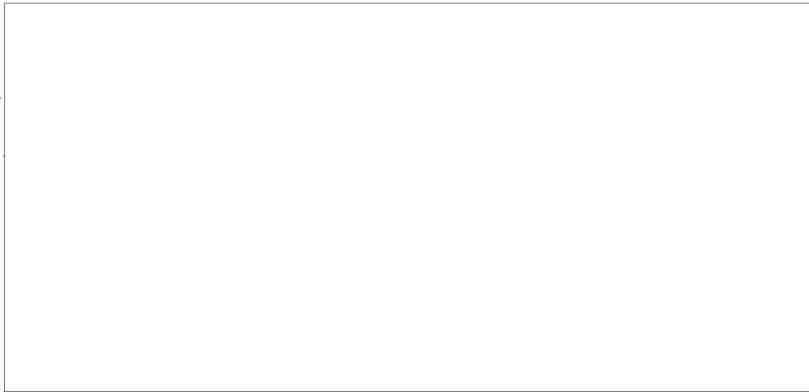
The Communists still have much to do, however, before they can fully activate this west route. This route will be exposed to strong guerrilla harassment along its western flank and the Communists will have to clear the area of government forces before being able to transport significant quantities of supplies southward.

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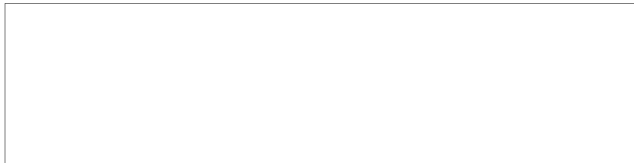
SOUTH VIETNAM



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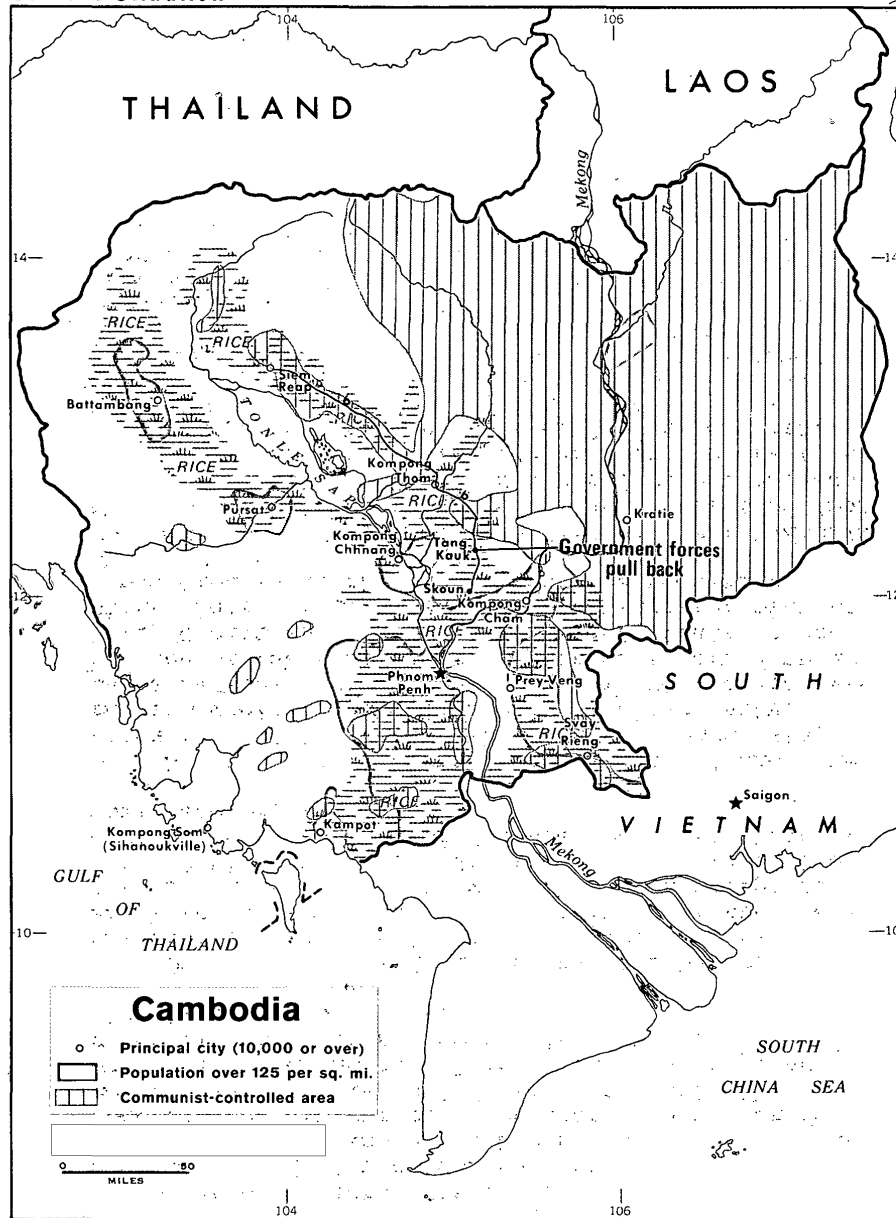
CHILE

Salvador Allende devoted a significant part of his "victory" rally speech on Sunday to attempts to intimidate those who would block his victory in the congressional runoff on 24 October. He threatened to "paralyze" Chile, and directed specific threats at banking and industrial interests, which he accused of promoting economic crisis and financing "seditious conspiracies."

On the other hand, as he has done before in the last few days, Allende made flattering references to the armed forces and to the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), implying that both groups respected his plurality. He cited, for example, the early congratulations of defeated candidate Radomiro Tomic and other leftist PDC members.

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Current Situation



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NOTES

Cambodia: The lead forces of the 4,000-man government convoy en route to Kompong Thom have pulled back from the village of Tang Kauk, 15 miles north of Skoun, after failing to dislodge well-entrenched Communist forces there. The Cambodians suffered over 100 casualties and are sending for reinforcements. Meanwhile, the government's relief convoy which reached Kompong Thom by river on 10 September has returned to Kompong Chhnang without incident to pick up additional supplies for a second trip to Kompong Thom. Elsewhere, the Communists have confined their activities to harassing attacks on scattered government positions.

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet task force that arrived in Cuba earlier this month delivered two barges of a type noted before only in satellite photography of Soviet facilities which support nuclear-powered submarines. Recent U-2 photography shows the barges at the Cienfuegos naval base, the same port visited last May by an E-II class nuclear-powered submarine. Although we are not yet certain, we believe one nuclear-powered submarine accompanied the Soviet ships now in Cienfuegos. The stationing of this type of barge at Cienfuegos would imply a plan to use the base there to support Soviet nuclear-powered submarines. A further appraisal of the developments at Cienfuegos is in preparation.

USSR-GDR-UN: The Soviets may soon launch a major effort to get East Germany a seat in the UN. They have given increased public emphasis to this issue recently and have included their ambassador to East Germany in the Soviet delegation to the General Assembly. The chances of success at this session are bleak, but Moscow may be willing to pursue this goal over the long term in the hope that admission to the UN would precipitate general international recognition of Pankow.

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